

A  
(cont'd)

52. The coupler of claim 50 wherein said at least one arcuate coupling member comprises at least one engaging element protruding inwardly from an inner surface of said arcuate surface of each said at least one arcuate coupling member, wherein said at least one engaging element engages with at least one cooperating channel formed on an outer surface at each end of a conduit to be coupled.

**REMARKS**

This amendment is in response to the Official Action, Paper No. 4, dated January 30, 2003.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following arguments.

Additional claims 50, 51 and 52 have been added. Applicants believe that the additional claim(s) broadly cover all groups of claims chosen by Examiner as separate species of the invention. All of the claims originally filed vary in scope but all are methods for coupling either corrugated or smooth-walled conduit using the technique(s) and devices described in the generic claim(s). All of the various coupling methods and devices claimed are species based on the generic conduit coupling claims 50-52.

No separate 'marked up' copy of the claims is included because no claims were amended, only new claims added.

Thus, Applicants request that Examiner define at least one of the original or added claims as "generic", withdraw the election requirement, and examine all claims on the merits in one application. The fees associated with this amendment, if any are due, are included herewith. If Examiner wishes to discuss the case with Applicant's attorney, Applicant's attorney (Kristin

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Kohler) can be reached at 231-275-3799 and is happy to work with Examiner towards allowance of the case.

Respectfully submitted,



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